

No. 21. Wages and Work.

The Workingman's Interest in the National Policy.
THE PURCHASING POWER OF WAGES.
Great Decreased Cost of Groceries.
CLOTHING AND FUEL CHEAPER UNDER THE N. P.
WORKINGMEN STAND BY YOUR FRIENDS.

There can be no doubt that the reliability and thoroughness of every branch of industry depends considerably on the man who manipulates the material, for in a thousand and one ways, neglect and indifference to results may counterbalance even the virtues of good steel and sound timber. An experienced employer once said, "I give the best wages I can, for the reason that the same man does better work when contented than he can when he is not contented." This fact is in line with universal experience, and in the close, hot race of nations and trades for supremacy and markets, the character of workmanship is coming to the front as the supreme factor.

Under the National Policy, workmen have received higher wages and fuller employment. The tendency is always in both these directions. To abolish or impair the usefulness of the National Policy, let opponents take charge and tinker at the tariff, and the result must be injury to all the interests of labor. Wages must come down, if the National Policy is not kept in the hands of a government honestly its friends. In a previous paper it has been shown that wages in 1886 were one quarter more than in 1873. What workingman desires to run any risk of bringing wages down? But he creates that risk by voting for those who are not the tried, true and honest friends of the National Policy. He paves the way for turning himself into a tramp wandering around in search of work, by casting a vote for a doubtful candidate or the supporter of a party whose tariff policy, as branded by some hundreds of manufacturers and millers in Toronto the other day, "is involved, uncertain and indefinite."

Not only have the wages of the workingman been greatly increased, but the purchasing power of those wages has, on the whole, been increased 18 per cent., everything a man and his wife and family want, taken in the large, being cheaper now than in 1873. A few sample bills are given to show this fact:

Montreal, 3rd February, 1887.

EVERY CONSUMER DEBTOR

To the National Policy for the difference between these two bills:

	1873.	1886.
24 lb. sugar granulated....	91c \$2.35	5c \$1.44
8 lb. tea.....	50c 1.80	45c 1.35
2 lb. coffee.....	38c 38	30c 30
5 lb. butter.....	20c 60	22c 66
1 lb. cheese.....	10c 10	10c 10
14 lb. flour, per bbl.....	85 30	\$4.12 29
14 lb. oatmeal.....	21c 35	3c 28
1 gal. syrup.....	90c 90	20c 80
1 gal. molasses.....	65c 65	45c 46
3 fine salmon.....	25c 75	15c 45
1 bush. potatoes.....	61c 60	50c 50
2 gals. coal oil, Can.....	30c 60	18c 54
3 6 lb. loaves bread.....	20c 60	18c 54
	\$3.97	\$7.65

Out of a ten dollar bill, a customer received 3c in change in 1873, and \$2.35 in change in 1886.

(Average retail prices for the same quality of each article at a corresponding period in each year are taken.)

Montreal, 3rd February, 1887.

EVERY HOUSEHOLDER DEBTOR

To the National Policy for the difference between these two bills:

	1873.	1886.
10 yds. gray cotton.....	\$1.00 \$1.35	91c 95
10 yds. white cotton.....	11c 1.40	11c \$1.15
8 yds. colored cotton.....	16c 1.35	12c 1.06
5 yds. check cotton.....	21c 1.05	16c 78
6 yds. singhams.....	10c 81	11c 56
6 yds. wool tweeds.....	67c 4.04	40c 2.94
	\$8.08	\$7.44

Out of a ten dollar bill, a customer received 2c change in 1873, but \$2.56 change in 1886.

(Average retail prices for the same quality of goods are taken in each year at a corresponding period.)

Montreal, 3rd February, 1887.

EVERY HOUSEHOLDER DEBTOR

To the National Policy for the difference between these two bills:

	1873.	1886.
4 tons stove coal.....	\$8.25 \$23.00	\$6.50 \$24.00
1 chal. coke.....	5.00 5.00	2.50 1.55
10 gal. coal oil.....	26 3.00	24 2.30
	\$37.50	\$29.35

Out of four ten dollar bills, a customer received \$2.50 change in 1873, and \$10.45 change in 1886.

For \$33 in 1873 a customer got 4 loads of coal; for \$33 in 1886 a customer got 5 loads of coal and 50 cents change.

For \$18 in 1873 a customer got 6 chaldrons coke; for \$18 in 1886 a customer got 7 chaldrons coke and 50 cents change.

For \$8 in 1873 a customer got 10 gallons Can. coal oil; for \$8 in 1886 a customer got 13 galls. Can. coal oil.

(Average retail prices for the same quality are taken for corresponding periods in each year; if gas instead of oil were used, the percentage saved would be still higher.)

That the duty has no effect on the price of coal is seen in the fact that the same quality of coal sells at the same price in Boston as in Montreal.

Labour, with its hundred hands, knocks at the door of the morning, asking for work during the day that the families may be supplied with the food and clothing and comfortable homes they are entitled to. Free trade looks out of the upper window and demands in gruff voice, "What do you want?" I have no work for you. I buy my cottons in Manchester or Lowell, my woollens in England, my sugar in New York, my coal in Pennsylvania, in fact all I want from old established centres. If an industry in Canada cannot maintain itself in the face of the unfair competition of outside manufacturers, let it go down. The artisan that cannot find work here in the line to which he has been brought up must either go elsewhere or turn farmer or lumberman.

Protection hears the knock, opens the door, and tells the labour of the country. "I know that varied occupations are needed in a new land as well as in an old country. All cannot be farmers, for then would there be no one to purchase the surplus of the farm. The more occupations there are in a country, the more chances for employment. The gifts bestowed on men are varied. One makes a good machinist, but would make a poor farmer. Another can operate within a factory, but die in an open air pursuit. One can fish and another can run a locomotive. One can organize work for others and bring into play his powers of organization. So the country to thrive must have varied employment. The first duty of a country is to look after its own sons and daughters. I purpose that there shall be work for all. Hence I, first of all, prevent outsiders dumping their surplus products into this country, which they are more apt to do when times are depressed, thus removing part of the depression from themselves and increasing it among others. Then I use means to establish, strengthen and develop various industries, the more the better, so as to give every one that wants to work, a chance to do so at the employment which best suits."

Gruff, surly, unfeeling Free Trade is represented in Canada by the opponents of the National Policy. Kindly, sympathetic, labour-helping Protection is in Canada represented by the friends of the National Policy.

Hon. Mr. Blake says: "The principles of Free Trade are, in my judgment, undeniable. I hope the world will come to them. I desire, as far as possible, to promote those principles." Sir John Macdonald moves and supports the famous resolution of 1876, which gave birth to the National Policy.